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BY: OIPRA di E. Morgan

DATE: July 24, 2002

PATENT



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re: | Patent Application of Nanning J. Arfsten, <i>et al.</i> | : Group Art Unit: 1775 |
| Appln. No.: | 09/437,948 | : Examiner: J. McNeil |
| Conf. No.: | 8672 | : |
| Filed: | November 10, 1999 | : |
| For: | NIOBIUM OXIDE-BASED LAYERS FOR THIN FILM OPTICAL COATINGS AND PROCESSES FOR PRODUCING THE SAME | : Attorney Docket : No. 275-3 |

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated April 2, 2002 (Paper No. 13) in the above-identified application. This response is being timely filed in view of the simultaneous filing of a Petition for Extension of Time (one month) to and including August 2, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 19, 20, 22, and 23 are presently pending in the application.

Initially applicants request that the Examiner carefully consider the following Remarks and enter a Notice of Allowance. Applicants have received now four non-final Office Actions, each raising new art and rejections from two separate Examiners. This application has accordingly been subjected to long, drawn out piecemeal examination contrary to the guidelines of